

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 9-20 as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

9. (New) In a computer system which has a first computer, a second computer connected to said first computer via network, a storage apparatus connected to said second computer via a fixed length access interface and storing data in a fixed-length block format used by said second computer, a method for processing data stored in said storage apparatus to said first computer comprising the steps of:

requesting, from said first computer to said second computer via network, data stored in said storage apparatus in said fixed-length block format;

reading, in response to said request, data in said fixed-length block format from said storage apparatus via said fixed length access interface and transferring said read data to said first computer via network, by using said second computer;

converting, in said first computer, said transferred data in said fixed-length block format to data in variable-length block format; and

processing said converted data in said first computer.

10. (New) A method as described in claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

making volume information for accessing data stored in said storage apparatus, in said first computer.

11. (New) A method as described in claim 10, wherein said step for making said volume information comprises a step for storing said volume information in a predetermined region formed in a main memory of said first computer.

12. (New) A method as described in claim 10, wherein said volume information which includes information of a starting position and an ending position of data is said fixed-length block format in said storage apparatus.

13. (New) A computer in a variable-length block format comprising:

a communication unit to communicate with another computer which is connected to a storage apparatus,

a processor and,

a memory,

wherein said processor requests said another computer to send data stored in said storage apparatus in fixed-length block format through said communication unit, receives said data from said another computer through said communication unit, converts said data to data in variable-length block format, and processes said converted data.

14. (New) A computer as described in claim 13, wherein said processor makes volume information for accessing data stored in said storage apparatus.

15. (New) A computer as described in claim 14, wherein said processor stores said volume information in a predetermined region formed in a main memory of said first computer.

16. (New) A computer as described in claim 14, wherein said volume information which includes information of a starting position and an ending position of data is said fixed-length block format in said storage apparatus.

17. (New) A system comprising:  
a first computer,

a second computer connected to said first computer through network,

a storage apparatus storing data in a fixed-length block format connected to said second computer via a fixed length access interface,

wherein said first computer requests said second computer to send data stored in said storage apparatus,

wherein said second computer reads said data stored in said storage apparatus via said fixed length access interface and transfers said data to said first computer via network based on said request, and

wherein said first computer receives said transferred data, converts said received data to a variable-length block format, and processes said converted data.

18. (New) A computer as described in claim 17, wherein said processor makes volume information for accessing data stored in said storage apparatus.

19. (New) A computer as described in claim 18, wherein said processor stores said volume information in a predetermined region formed in a main memory of said first computer.

20. (New) A computer as described in claim 18, wherein said volume information which includes information of a starting position and an ending position of data is said fixed-length block format in said storage apparatus.